

RUTLAND HERALD.

"Here comes the 'Herald' of a noisy world, with news from all Nations."

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THE RUTLAND HERALD.

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POETRY.

LINES

Recited at the Exhibition of the Blind, at the First Presbyterian Church, Rutland, Vt., Jan. 23, 1838, by Joseph B. Smith, a blind boy.

BY PARK BENJAMIN.

The bird that never tried his wing
Can blithely hop and sweetly sing,
Though prison'd in a narrow cage—
Till his bright feathers drop with age.
So I, though never blest with sight,
Shut out from Heaven's surrounding light,
Life's hours and days and years enjoy—
Though blind, a merry-hearted boy.

That captive bird may never float
Through heaven, or pour his thrilling note
Midst shady groves, by pleasant streams,
That sparkle in the soft moonbeams.
But he may gaily flutter round,
Within his prison's scanty bound,
And give his soul to song, for he
Ne'er longs to taste sweet liberty.

Oh, may I not as happy dwell
Within mine unillumined cell?
May I not leap and sing and play,
And turn my constant night to day?
I never saw the skies, the sea—
The earth was never green to me
Then why, oh why should I repine
For blessings that were never mine?

Think not that blindness makes me sad—
My thoughts, like yours, are often glad.
Parents I have, who love me well—
Their different voices I can tell.
Though far and absent, I can hear
In dreams their music meet my ear.
Is there a star so dear above
As the low voice of one we love?

I cannot see my father's face;
But on his forehead when I place
My hand, and feel the wrinkles there,
Left less by time than anxious care,
I fear the world has rights of me,
To knit the brow of manhood so.
I sit upon my father's knee—
He'd love me less if I could see.

I never saw my mother smile—
Her gentle face my heart beguile;
They are so mild and sweet to me,
She murmurs not, my mother dear—
But sometimes I have kissed the tear
From her soft cheek, to tell the joy
One smiling word would give her boy.

Right merry was I every day,
Fearless to run about and play
With sisters, brothers, friends and all;
To answer to their sudden call—
To join the ring—to speed the chase—
To find each playmate's hiding-place—
To pass my hand across his brow
To tell him—I could do it now.

Yet though I'd never knew the hours,
So pass'd in Childhood's peaceful hours,
When all were gone to school but I,
I used to sit at home and sigh,
And though I never longed to view
The earth so green, the sky so blue,
I thought I'd give the world to look
Along the pages of a book.

Now since I've learned to read and write,
My heart is filled with new delight;
And music too—can there be found
A sight so beautiful as sound?
Tell me, kind friends, in one short word,
Am I not like that captive bird?
I live in song, in peace and joy—
Though blind, a merry-hearted boy.

MISCELLANY.

A NATION'S BREAD.

We hear much said, in the papers, of the immense quantities of bread stuffs imported from abroad, and the opinion seems to be general that such importations must have a decided effect upon the wheat market of this country. The fallacy of such an opinion can, we think, be made easily apparent, and the fact shown, that all the grain that has been, and will be imported, has but little more influence on a supply of bread for the nation, than a bucket of water would in filling the ocean. To furnish the population of the United States with bread, one hundred millions of bushels will be required, estimating the number at fourteen millions, and allowing seven bushels of grain per head; which, making allowance for the coarse grains and corn used for food, will not be considered too liberal an estimate.

The quantity of wheat imported into the United States, since last harvest, is estimated not to exceed one million of bushels; and the importation, it is evident, has nearly ceased. If one hundred millions are required by the nation, then not far from three hundred thousand bushels a day will be consumed; consequently the amount imported, would furnish the country with bread about three days and half. But it must be remembered that we have sent abroad much more than we have received; that from our last year's crop, scanty as it was deemed, quantities have been sent to the West Indies, South America and Texas, and at the present moment the supply in the country is ample. If as present appearances indicate, the coming harvest should be favorable, not only will the country be filled with abundance, but the pretext of apprehended scarcity will no longer serve the purpose of exacting exorbitant prices, or withholding the necessary supplies from the poor.

But though there is thus a great probability that a want of bread will not at present be felt in this country, such an event should be placed beyond a possibility. It is clear we must pay more attention to agriculture. We have lawyers and doctors, merchants, and professional men in more than enough to supply the

demand; we must have more farmers, and these must be better informed; and theoretically as well as practically acquainted with their business.

We must have agricultural societies, and agricultural schools; and no man should be deemed qualified to teach even a common school, who is unacquainted with the great principles that should govern the labors of the farmer, and is unable to teach the analysis of soils and the physiology of vegetation, to the farmers' sons around him. Books may be prepared, which shall give the necessary information on all topics connected with agriculture, and adapted to schools; we know of few places where classes of boys might not be found, where their study and use might not be decidedly beneficial. We hope the labors of the American Society for promoting useful Knowledge, will be early directed to this subject, as there are few classes of publications contemplated by that society, which will be so exclusively and permanently useful. A decrease in the products of the earth, is always ominous. The history of the world shows, that the solid additions to the capital, and the consequent prosperity of any country, mainly depend on the productions of the soil; and that the best patriot, as well as political economist, is one who most speeds the plough.—*Gen. Far.*

At a recent meeting of school trustees in Jersey, a candidate for the "pedagogical" of the district appeared with his father, a farmer, who had spared no pains to provide his son, not only with an elegant education, but all other requisites for the desired situation. The importance attached to a watch was not overlooked by the old gentleman, and wishing to convey a hint to the board that his hopeful offspring was furnished also with this rare recommendation, demanded of him in a loud voice, "what time it was by his new patent lever, double case, silver watch, with a steel chain and gold seal to it?" "Sixty-five minutes past eleven, daddy," replied the aspirant for academical distinction.

OLLAPOODRIA.

Jim.—Now, lubly sorra! do let me in; it's ticularly cold, and I wants some fire.
Dinah (inside).—You wants fire?—ah, lugh! I knows what you's arter; you wants a kiss, but you don't get it tho' less you's stronger an I; an I knows you is!

THE DUTCH OF IT.—An exchange paper says that "forgetting to pay for your paper and robbing a hen-roost are the same thing, only differently expressed."

We understand that an old lady lately told her household that she should be obliged to get another tooth-brush into the family as she had taken so many boarders that one was not enough for the whole concern.

"John," said a careful father, "don't give cousin Simon's horses too many oats—you know they have hay."

"Yes thur," said John, moving towards the barn.
"And hark ye, John, don't give them too much hay—you know they have oats."

ABSENCE OF MIND.—A hen, instead of setting on her eggs, got upon a heap of pig iron, from which she hatched out a large number of spikes.

ANOTHER.—A poor fellow, a few miles out of town, went into his barn for the purpose of taking the life of a fat hen for his morning's breakfast. Melancholy to relate, he became absent minded, and wrung his own neck. He found it out as soon as he tried to crow.

There is a man so thin, in Philadelphia, that he can walk among the rays of the sun without encountering one!

The wife selected by the Parisians for the Kentucky giant, is said to be so tall that the snow lies upon her head all the year round.

So far very well; but can they furnish it with a match for the man spoken of by the Boston Times, who is so short that he can't reach high enough to button his jacket, or for a certain New-York editor, who is so small that he can jump over his own head with the greatest ease, if allowed a running start.

SLEEPY HAT.—"Please, sir," said a wag-gish urchin to a dilapidated dandy, "is not your hat sleepy?"
"Hat sleepy? why, you saucy little rascal?"

"Because it looks as though it had not had a nap for a great while."

The Cincinnati News mentions as a remarkable instance of the sagacity of a large dog, that he was seen to enter the saloon of the Post Office, raise himself upon his hind feet, look into his master's box and finding it empty, departed with an evident look of disappointment!

GOOD.—In Augusta a man cannot advertise his wife without paying the printer \$50, in advance.

EASTERN NOTION.—It is stated that the Boston merchants and tradesmen are so sharp in their business dealings, that when they hold conversation with customers they have a clerk hid in a sugar cask so as to bring him up as evidence, should the transaction be disputed.

ABSENCE OF MIND.—A Jack Ketch lately undertook to hang a criminal; but, in a state of mental absence, he put the rope round his own neck. He did not discover his mistake until he heard his neck crack when he was swinging off.

A gentleman in this neighborhood, entering his office during a storm, placed his umbrella upon a chair and spread himself out to dry in the hall. Another, upon retiring, blew himself out and put the lamp to bed.

VERY TRUE.—Every parent whose son is away from him at school, should supply him with a newspaper.—*Governor Everett.*
A sensible man is the Governor.

IN TIME OF PEACE, PREPARE FOR WAR.—On Cape Cod, when a young lady is engaged to be married, she suffers her finger nails to grow long, so that in case she should be obliged to throw herself on her reserved rights, she may come to the scratch with some prospect of success.

TREMENDOUS STORM.—A western Editor, in giving an account of a hurricane, says—"It is utterly impossible to describe the scene of desolation presented to the eye. We saw as many as four hogs killed."

QUACKERY.—The New-York Times advertises for a quantity of ducks with good broad bills, to clean the mud out of the streets.

MANLY WOMEN.—Girls who are chiefly brought up by their fathers, imbibe so much of the manly spirit, that it becomes a grave question for their lovers, whether they possess enough of that spirit themselves, to endure and to contribute to it.

Times of calamity and confusion have ever been productive of great minds. The purest ore is produced in the hottest furnace, and the brightest thunderbolt is elicited from the darkest storm.

It is a very curious fact, that black people always have a beautiful set of teeth.—How can it be accounted for? By the way, the best tooth-powder ever used is simply the ashes of a good cigar. Ladies who smoke had better try it.

A pleasant and cheerful wife is a rainbow in the sky, when her husband's mind is tossed with storms and tempests; but a dissatisfied and fretful wife, in the hour of trouble, is like a thunder cloud charged with electric fluid. At such a time a wise man will keep clear, if possible in order to avoid the shock.

Plutarch used to say, that men of small capacities put into great places, like statues set upon great pillars, are made to appear the less by their advancement.

A BURNING'S ELEGY.

Here lies mine ashes so dead as life,
Yet God has kept my name alive;
He would not let me stay full me,
But took me home to stay full me.

A HINT TO SPECULATORS.

Of all speculations the market holds forth,
The best that I know for a lover of profit,
Is to buy up a lot at the price he is worth,
And sell him for that which he sets on himself.

POLITICAL.

[Specially Reported for the Journal of Commerce.]
MR. WEBSTER'S SPEECH ON THE SUB-TREASURY BILL.

IN SENATE—Wednesday, Jan. 31, 1838.

And now, sir, we see the upshot of the Experiment. We see around us bankrupt corporations, and broken promises; but we see no promises, more really and emphatically broken, than all those promises of the Administration which gave us assurance of a better currency. These promises, now broken, notoriously broken, if they cannot be performed, ought at least to be acknowledged. The Government ought not, in common fairness and common honesty, to deny its own responsibility, seek to escape from the demands of the people, and to hide itself out of the way and beyond the reach of the process of public opinion, by retreating into this Sub-Treasury System. Let it, at least, come forth; let it bear a part of honesty and candor; let it confess its promises, if it cannot perform them; and, above all, now, even now, at this late hour, let it renounce schemes and projects, the inventions of presumption, and the results of desperation, and let it address itself, in all good faith, to the great work of restoring the currency by approved and constitutional means.

But, Sir, so far as any such course from all probability of being adopted, so little ground of hope is there that this Sub-Treasury system will be abandoned, that the

Hon. member from New York has contended and argued in his place, that the public opinion is more favorable to this measure now proposed, than to any other which has been suggested. He claims for it the character of a favorite with the people.—He makes out this Sub-Treasury plan to be quite high in popular estimation. Certainly, Sir, if the Hon. member thinks so, he and I see with different eyes, bear with different ears, or gather the means of opinion from very different sources. But what is the gentleman's argument? It is this.—The two Houses of Congress, he says, reflect the wishes and opinions of the people; and with the two Houses of Congress, this system, he supposes, is more acceptable than any other.

Now, Sir, with the utmost respect for the two Houses of Congress, and all their members, I must be permitted to express a doubt, whether, on this subject, and at the present moment, the two Houses do exactly reflect the opinions and wishes of the people. I would not have adverted to the state of opinion here, compared with the state of public opinion in the country, if the gentleman had not founded an argument on the supposed disposition of the two Houses, and on the fact, that they truly set forth the public opinion. But since he has brought such an argument, it is proper to examine its foundation.

In a general sense, undoubtedly, Sir, the members of the two Houses must be understood to represent the sentiments of their constituents, the people of the United States. Their acts bind them, as their Representatives, and they must be considered, in a legal sense, as conforming to the will of their constituents. But, owing to the manner of our organization, and to the periods and times of election, it certainly may happen, that at a particular moment, and on a particular subject, opinion out doors may be one way, while opinion here is another. And how is it now, if we may judge by the usual indications? Does the gentleman hope for no vote, in this body, for his Bill, but such as shall be in his opinion, in strict accordance with the wishes, as generally understood, and most recently expressed, in the State from which that vote shall come?

I shall be exceedingly sorry, Sir, for instance, to see a vote from Maine given for this Bill. I hope I may not. But if there should be such a vote, can the gentleman say, that he believes in his conscience, it will express the wishes of a majority of the people of that State? And so of New Jersey, and one, if not more States in the West. I am quite sure that gentlemen who may give their votes, will discharge their duty according to their own enlightened judgments, and they are no way accountable to me for the manner in which they discharge it; but when the honorable member from New York contends that this body now accurately represents the public opinion, on the Sub-Treasury system, we must look at the facts. And with all possible respect for the honorable member, I must even take leave to ask him, whether, in his judgment, he, himself, is truly reflecting the opinions and wishes of a majority of the People of New York, while he is proposing and supporting this bill? Where does he find evidence of the favor of the people of that State towards this measure? Does he find it in the City? In the country? In the recently elected House of Assembly? In the recently elected members of the Senate? Can he name a place—can he lay a trace, for the popularity of this measure, in the whole State of New York? Between Montauk Point and Cattaraugus, and between the mountains of Pennsylvania and the north end of Lake Champlain, can he anywhere put his finger on the map, and say here is a spot where the Sub-Treasury is popular? He may find places, no doubt, though they are somewhat scarce, where his friends have been able to maintain their ascendancy, notwithstanding the unpopularity of the measure; but can he find one place, one spot of any extent, in which this measure of relief is the choice, the favorite, of a majority of the People?

Mr. President, the honorable member has long been in public life, and has witnessed, often, the changes and fluctuations of political parties and political opinions. And I will ask him what he thinks of the hurricane which swept over New York in the first week of last November? Did he ever know the like? Has he before ever been called on to withstand such a whirlwind? or had he previously any suspicion that such an outbreak in the political elements was at hand? I am persuaded, Sir, that he feared such a thing much less than I hoped for; and my own hopes, although I had hopes, I must confess, fell far short of the actual result. And to me, Mr. President, it seems perfectly plain, that the cause of this astonishing change in public opinion is to be found, mainly, in the Sub-Treasury bill of the last session. The message, with its anti-social, anti-commercial, anti-popular doctrines and dogmas—the message which set at naught all our own measures and

usages, rejected all the teachings of experience, threatened the State institutions and, anxious only to take good care of Government, abandoned the people to their fate—the message,—the message,—it was,—that did the great work in New York, and elsewhere.

The message was that cave of Eolus, out of which the career winds issued:
"The Enraptured Neptune roars, emburge procellis Africas!"

mingling seas and skies, dispersing the most powerful political combinations, and scattering their fragments on the rocks and shores. I might quote the poet further, Sir:
"et ventus valens ad sidera fluctat."

The political deep seemed agitated, to the bottom, and its heaving bosom moved onward and forward the "ventus fluctus."—in Nautical phrase the big rollers of public opinion.

The honorable member may say, or may think, that all this was the result of but a transient impulse, a feverish ebullition, a sudden surprise, or a change superficial and apparent only, not deep and real.—Sir, I cannot say, but I must confess that if the movement in New York last fall was not real, it looked more like reality than any fanciful exhibition which I ever saw.—If the people were not in earnest, they certainly had a very sober and earnest way of being in jest.

And now, Sir, can the honorable member, can any man, say that in regard to this measure, even the House of Representatives is certain, at this moment truly to reflect the public judgment? Though nearer to the people than ourselves, and more frequently chosen, yet it is known that the present members were elected, nearly all of them, before the appearance of the message of September. And will the honorable member allow me to ask whether, if a new election of members of Congress were to take place in his own State to-morrow, and the newly elected members should take their seats immediately, he should entertain the slightest expectation of the passage of this bill through that House?

Mr. President, in 1834 the Hon. member presented to the Senate, Resolutions of the Legislature of New York, approving the previous course of the Administration in relation to the currency. He then urged strongly, but none too strongly, the weight due to these resolutions, because, he argued, they expressed the undoubted sense of the people, as well as that of the Legislature. He said there was not, at that time, a single member in the popular branch of the Legislature who was not in favor of these resolutions, either from the cities of Hudson, Albany, Troy, Schenectady, Utica, or an almost endless number of incorporated trading towns and villages, or the great city of New York itself, which he justly calls the Commercial Emporium of the country; all these cities and villages being surrounded as he most justly said, by an intelligent population; and cities, villages, and country, altogether comprising near two millions of souls. All this was very well. It was true. The facts were with the Hon. member. And although I most exceedingly regretted and deplored that it was so, I could not deny it. And he was entitled to enjoy, and did enjoy, the whole benefit of this respectable support. But, Sir, how stands the matter now? What say these two millions of souls to the Sub-Treasury? In the first place, what says the city of New-York, that great Commercial Emporium, worthy the gentleman's commendation in 1834, and worthy of his commendation, and my commendation, and all commendation, at all times? What sentiments, what opinions, what feelings are proclaimed by the thousands of her merchants, traders, manufacturers, and laborers? What is the united shout of all the voices of all her classes? What is it, but that you will put down this new-fangled Sub-Treasury system, alike alien to their interests and their feelings, at once, and forever? What is it, but that in mercy to the mercantile interest, the trading interest, the shipping interest, the manufacturing interest, the laboring class, and all classes, you will give up useless and pernicious political schemes and projects, and return to the plain, straight course of wise and wholesome legislation? The sentiments of the city cannot be misunderstood. A thousand pens, and ten thousand tongues, and a spirited press, make them all known. If we have not already yet heard enough, we shall hear more. Embarrassed, vexed, pressed, and distressed, as are her citizens at this moment, yet their resolution is not shaken, their spirit is not broken; and depend upon it, they will not see their commerce, their business, their prosperity and their happiness, all sacrificed to preposterous schemes and political empiricism, without another, and a yet more vigorous, struggle. And Hudson, and Albany, and Troy, and Schenectady, and Utica—pray, Sir, why may not the citizens of these cities have as much weight with the Hon. member now, as they justly had in 1834? And does he, can he, doubt of what they think of his Bill? Ave, Sir, and Rochester, and Watkins, and